Message

From: Faeth, Lisa [Faeth.Lisa@epa.gov]
Sent: 12/7/2017 4:38:55 PM
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Subject: News Articles (For EPA Distribution Only)

BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT ARTICLES

House Democrats haven't gotten a chance yet to question EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt at a hearing today—but they're already mad at him about it.

Pruitt is expected to attend the House Energy and Commerce's environmental subcommittee hearing for one hour, then take a three-hour break before coming back in the afternoon. Pruitt has a busy day—he's also expected to be part of a White House meeting with Texas GOP Sen. Ted Cruz and other senators on controversies over renewable fuels that have divided corn-state and oil-patch lawmakers.

Pruitt's decision to leave, then return, to the House hearing represents a continued Trump administration attempt "to thumb their noses at Congress—defying any real attempts for congressional oversight," fumed New Jersey Rep. Frank Pallone, the Energy and Commerce Committee's top Democrat.

When Pruitt is at the hearing, Republicans want details about whether he's identified areas where the agency needs laws changed to accomplish its mission, according to an Energy and Commerce staff memo. Abby Smith is covering.

INSIDEEPA.COM ARTICLES

Citing Efficiency, EPA Defends Strategy For Some 'New' TSCA Chemicals

EPA officials are defending the agency's latest strategy for regulating some "new" chemicals that the agency reviews before they can enter the marketplace from environmentalists' concerns that the Trump EPA's decision to drop use of enforcement orders to limit the chemicals' uses before rules are finalized is not health protective.

OPPT Hedges On TSCA Rules For Legacy Uses Of Persistent Chemicals

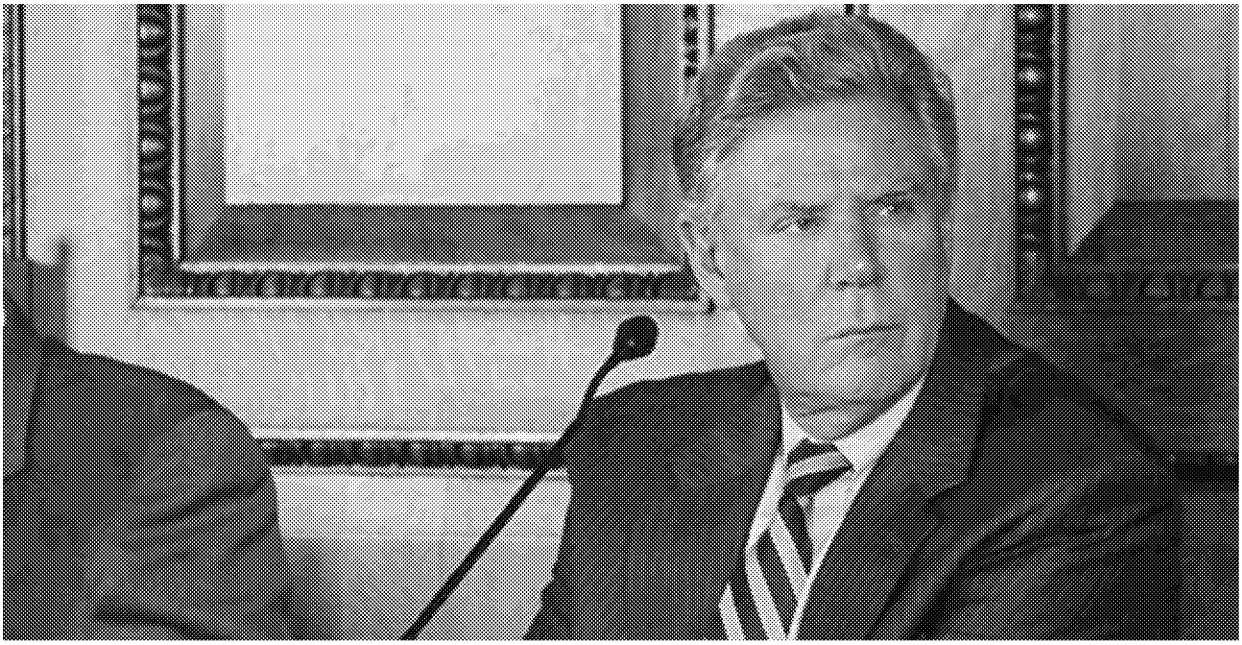
EPA officials are undecided on whether to assess exposures to, and manage risks of, legacy uses and disposal of persistent and biaccumulative chemicals under the reformed Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), opening the door to a limitation that is already a feature of litigation over the Trump administration's rules governing TSCA assessments and chemical prioritization processes.

GREENWIRE ARTICLES

Pruitt will get 3-hour break at House hearing

Kevin Bogardus, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, December 6, 2017



Rep. Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) is blasting U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt for planning to take a three-hour break from tomorrow's House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment hearing. Energy & Commerce Committee Democrats/Facebook

U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt will have a lengthy intermission from tomorrow's hearing on Capitol Hill, sparking protests from Democrats.

At 10 a.m. tomorrow, Pruitt is slated to appear before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment — a long-anticipated hearing for Pruitt because he hasn't testified before Congress since June. But the EPA chief will only attend the hearing for an hour in the morning before returning later at 2 p.m.

Rep. Frank Pallone (D-N.J.), ranking member on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, said Pruitt's three-hour recess is another example of him defying oversight from lawmakers.

"The Trump Administration and Administrator Pruitt continue to thumb their noses at Congress — defying any real attempts for Congressional oversight," Pallone said in a statement. "Congressional Republicans need to grow a backbone and stand up to President Trump and the members of his cabinet."

Pallone singled out Pruitt, saying he has repeatedly ignored any congressional oversight, and questioned whether Republicans had any plans to offer oversight of the Trump administration "anytime soon."

A House Energy and Commerce Committee spokesman confirmed that Pruitt will take a three-hour break from tomorrow's hearing in order to accommodate a White House meeting on the EPA administrator's schedule.

"We understand the inconvenience Mr. Pruitt's schedule poses but believe that performing the committee's vital oversight role is too important to delay this hearing," said the committee spokesman.

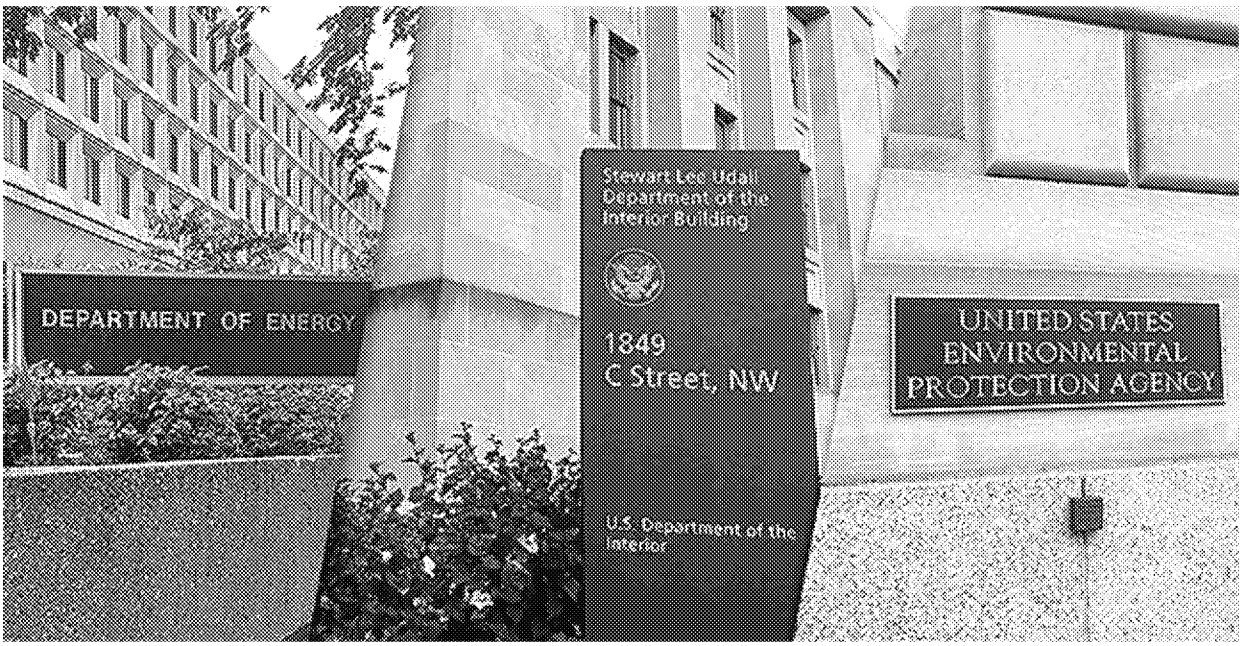
Pruitt has sat through congressional hearings before, including when he testified about EPA's budget at House and Senate appropriations subcommittee hearings in June. In addition, the EPA chief's Senate confirmation hearing in January was more than six hours long, which also included a break (*Greenwire*, Jan. 19).

In response to Pallone's statement, an EPA spokesman told E&E News that the agency "will respond to the congressman through the proper channels."

Morale up at Interior and DOE, down at EPA

Kevin Bogardus, E&E News reporter

Published: Wednesday, December 6, 2017



New rankings have been released on federal employee morale at agencies, including the departments of Energy and the Interior and U.S. EPA. Claudine Hellmuth/E&E News (DOE and EPA); Pamela King/E&E News (Interior)

Federal employee morale across the government again improved this year, including at several key energy and environmental agencies.

At both the departments of Energy and the Interior, job satisfaction climbed for the third straight year, according to a report released today by the Partnership for Public Service. Other agencies, such as U.S. EPA, however, saw their scores drop in 2017.

Overall federal worker morale improved for its third consecutive year. The partnership's 2017 "Best Places to Work in the Federal Government" report, done in collaboration with consulting firm Deloitte, gave the government an employee engagement index score of 61.5.

That is a 2.1-point spike from 2016 and the highest overall score since 2011. The improvement also beats prior increases of 1.3 points in 2016 and 1.2 in 2015.

The partnership's assessment, its first morale report in the Trump administration era, tracks closely with agencies' own polling of employees under the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey, which also saw morale improve (*Greenwire*, Oct. 13).

Mallory Barg Bulman, vice president of research and evaluation at the partnership, credited improvements on a "mission-focused" federal workforce as well as a push by the Obama administration to have agencies include employment engagement in their performance plans.

"That really changed behavior. Individuals were being held accountable for what happened in their workplace," Barg Bulman told E&E News, referring to the move by the prior administration.

"I think people in the federal government still feel they can still make a difference," she said. "There have been decreases in some places, but people mostly felt they can still do their work and their agency's mission."

The partnership said 74 percent of federal agencies saw scores climb this year. EPA, the Department of State, the FBI and the intelligence community, however, saw declines.

Further, the federal government is still far behind in morale when compared with the private sector. The 2017 employee engagement score for private-sector employees was 77.8, 16.3 points higher than the government's, according to research firm Mercer-Sirota.

The partnership's rankings are mostly based off results from the FEVS, administered by the Office of Personnel Management this spring. More than 486,000 federal employees representing 80 agencies took part in that survey.

The group then calculated its index score from three workplace satisfaction questions dealing with whether people would recommend their workplace, job satisfaction and agency satisfaction.

Asked how President Trump could continue to improve morale, Barg Bulman said, "The biggest thing I would say is to not stop."

She said, "As new political leaders come in, it is important that they listen to the career workforce and recognize that the career workforce is committed to the mission of the agency and can help them to do their job."

The partnership has long received data from OPM to help with the report. This year, however, OPM initially withheld information on 186 small agencies and subcomponents, citing privacy concerns. Yesterday, OPM reversed that decision.

Consequently, the partnership will revise its rankings for small agencies and subcomponents and release an updated report in early 2018. Rankings for large and midsize agencies will not change.

"We are providing transparency here. That's our goal, and that's what we are doing here," Barg Bulman said. "There will be additional data in January."

DOE, Interior's morale climbs

Interior saw its score in the partnership's report climb by 2.9 points from 2016 to 2017. The department earned a 63.9 mark this year, giving it a ranking of ninth among large agencies.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke cheered that improvement. "Interior should be hands-down the best place to work in the federal government, and we're going to get there," Zinke said in a statement today.

"In the years to come we will reorganize the force to push more resources to the front lines and clean up the culture of harassment and discrimination," he said. "Moving from 11th to 9th is a nice step, but I won't be satisfied until we're No. 1."

NASA remained No. 1 among large agencies for the sixth year in a row, with a score of 80.9, a 2.3 point increase from 2016.

Given a score of 52, the Department of Homeland Security remains last in that category, although it improved by 6.2 points.

Also among large agencies, the State Department saw its greatest decline over a year at 2.8 points since the partnership began doing the report in 2003. State got a score of 64, just above Interior.

For midsize agencies, the Department of Energy was ranked 15th. Its 2017 score was 66.6 points, 3.2 points more than the prior year.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission was No. 1 in that category. The energy regulator was given a score of 82.9 this year, 3.9 points higher than in 2016.

Ranked 11th for midsize agencies, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission got a 71.3 score. That rose 1.1 points from the previous year.

EPA saw its score fall in the partnership's report by 0.9 point this year. The environmental agency earned 63.5 points in 2017, ranking at 18th among midsize agencies. It seems EPA's surge in morale has stalled; in 2016, it had a 5.9-point increase from the prior year.

Asked about results concerning EPA, Barg Bulman said the partnership saw numbers fall in specific program offices.

"The Office of Water and the Office of Air and Radiation saw some of the biggest drops in the senior leadership scores," she said. "Again, you have a very mission-driven workforce. When they feel they cannot affect the mission, that can be a very frustrating thing."

EPA's water office score dropped by 5.4 points this year. The air office's score went down by 7.3 points.

Trump picks lack graduate science degrees

Published: Wednesday, December 6, 2017

For environment, science and health positions, the Trump administration has fewer nominees with relevant academic degrees compared with their immediate Obama administration predecessors.

Of the 43 people Trump has nominated, nearly 60 percent lack a master's degree or doctorate in a science or health field, according to a survey by the Associated Press. That number was flipped for the previous administration: More than 60 percent had such degrees.

"This is just reflective of the disdain that the administration has shown for science," said Christine Todd Whitman, a former Republican New Jersey governor and U.S. EPA chief.

"When you're talking about science, issues about protecting human health ... it's very, very complicated and sophisticated work," said Whitman, who does not have an advanced degree but said she surrounded herself with scientists who did. "You need the background and experience to handle these things."

It's particularly acute in the Department of Energy, where no science-based roles have nominees with even a master's degree in a science field.

Five of the people who previously held those roles in the Obama administration had master's degrees in science, and four had doctorates. Both Energy secretaries under Obama had doctorates in physics.

Energy Secretary Rick Perry has a bachelor's degree in animal science.

Science advocates are concerned about degradation of research. They also fear that leaders will not be getting the best possible information.

"It's the policymakers themselves who need it. If they want to develop policies that are most likely to succeed, they should make those policies with the understanding available of how things are," said Rush Holt, a former physicist and Democratic congressman from New Jersey, now CEO of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. "We do this with the age-old, time-tested procedure of determining how things are. We call that science" (Seth Borenstein, Associated Press, Dec. 5). **— NB**

CHEMICAL WATCH ARTICLES

Taiwan publishes testing methods for microbeads

6 December 2017 / Personal care, Taiwan

Taiwan's EPA has published testing methods for determining the presence of plastic microbeads in cosmetics and personal cleansing and care products.

The production or importation, as well as sales or use of such products containing microbeads will be prohibited from January and July respectively.

The test methods will use Fourier transform infrared spectrometers (FTIR) or Raman spectrometers to identify whether products, after dilution in warm water, contain plastic microbeads between 0.05mm and 5mm.

An agency official said that they will "serve as the basis for inspection by the EPA and self-management by enterprises", at a press conference last month.

EPA inspection plans

After the first enforcement phase, the EPA will conduct inspections on manufacturers and importers from January to March next year. After 1 July, it will target pharmaceutical chain stores, department stores, supermarkets, convenience stores and other retailers. It also plans a campaign in April to help retailers understand the new rules.

More on this on *CW+AsiaHub*

Dennis Engbarth in Taipei City

Related Articles

- Taiwan publishes testing methods for microbeads

Further Information:

- Testing methods (in Chinese)

Canada criticises EU action on endocrine disruptors

Statement to the WTO echoes comments by the US and Australia

6 December 2017 / Canada, EDCs, Europe

Canada has joined the US and Australia in complaining to the WTO that hazard-based EU proposals to regulate endocrine disrupting substances (EDCs) in biocidal and plant protection products, will harm international trade.

On 4 October, the European Parliament vetoed the European Commission's pending EDC proposal for plant protection products. The action was based on objections to provisions that would exempt some substances with the properties from the criteria.

Canada submitted a document to the WTO on 17 November, echoing concerns raised by the US and Australia a week earlier that the EU appears to be moving toward stricter criteria that would lead to even more substances being classified as EDCs, and subsequently banned.

"Hazard-based cut-offs, without giving any consideration to exposure or without performing a complete risk assessment, can unnecessarily restrict trade," the Canadian document argues. "There is a growing number of examples where active ingredients are prevented from going through the reauthorisation process in the EU based on hazard-based cut-offs, such as glufosinate ammonium, and now possibly propiconazole."

"Even more concerning is the hazard-based approach to regulatory decision making, once a compound is identified as an endocrine disruptor, or meets other hazard-based cut-offs, such as for reproductive toxicants," it says, noting that such classification decisions "trigger regulatory non-approval and default maximum residue limits (MRLs), regardless of actual risk".

Canada asked for "concrete assurance" that MRLs and import tolerances will be "made on the basis of complete risk assessments".

Related Articles

- European Parliament rejects EDC criteria
- European Parliament committee blocks EDC criteria
- US and Australia criticise EU's proposed EDC restrictions

Further Information:

- Canadian WTO statement

Iarc director defends process for evaluating possible carcinogens

Letter responds to criticism from US lawmakers

6 December 2017 / Classification, United States

The director of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (Iarc), has defended the agency's process for determining whether substances are carcinogenic. His intervention comes in response to a critical inquiry from a US congressional committee.

"In summary, the cancer hazard classifications made by the Iarc monographs are the result of scientific deliberations of working groups of independent scientists, free from conflicts of interest," Christopher P Wild wrote in a letter to the chairs of two Congress committees.

Representatives Lamar Smith (R-Texas), chair of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, and Andy Biggs (R-Arizona), chair of its Environment Subcommittee, had earlier written to Iarc and the Department of Health and Human Services on 1 November, demanding information on the agency's monograph programme.

In response to their complaint that Iarc does not make meetings and draft documents public, Dr Wild said this was standard practice in scientific committees, and was necessary "to protect the working group scientists from interference by vested interests".

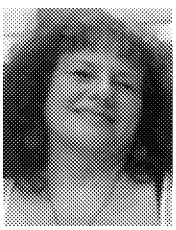
Draft documents are available to all scientists attending deliberative meetings, including observers from industry, he said.

Mr Wild's letter focused specifically on Iarc's 2015 review of glyphosate – the primary ingredient of Monsanto's Roundup herbicide – because the lawmakers had repeated assertions that had appeared in news media reports about the controversial decision to classify it as "probably" carcinogenic to humans.

References to a study co-authored by a Monsanto scientist were deleted from the final monograph because "the working group considered that information in the review article and its supplement was insufficient for independent evaluation of the individual studies and the conclusions reached," Dr Wild said.

He refused the committee's request to provide a witness for a possible hearing, but offered to answer further questions long distance or at a meeting at the agency's offices in France.

Iarc's work has come under fire before from lawmakers and industry groups in the US, because it has regulatory implications. Substances it lists as carcinogens are also listed as such under California's Proposition 65. This requires manufacturers and retailers to warn workers and consumers exposed to listed chemicals.



Julie A Miller

North American Desk Editor

Related Articles

- US committee investigates Iarc carcinogen labelling process

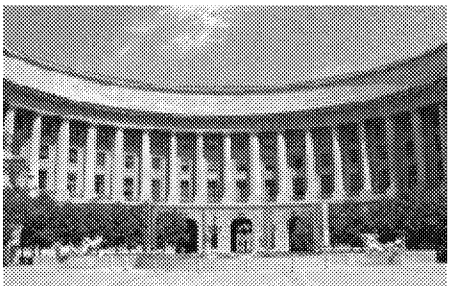
Further Information:

- Wild letter

US EPA announces 'cross agency' initiative on PFAS

Agency document addresses local controversy threatening Dourson nomination

7 December 2017 / Chemical manufacturing, United States



The US EPA has announced "a cross-agency effort to address per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)," including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), as well as GenX, a substance developed as a replacement for the older chemicals.

However, the agency did not promise to take regulatory action.

The EPA's announcement could be related to the pending nomination of Michael Dourson to lead the EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention. Two Republican senators whose opposition threatens the nomination based their decision substantially on controversy over pollution of the Cape Fear River by GenX – a chemical Dr Dourson evaluated for corporate clients.

In a press release, the EPA pledged to:

- identify a set of near-term actions to help support local communities;
- enhance coordination with states, tribes and federal partners to provide communities with critical information and tools to address PFAS;
- increase ongoing research efforts to identify new methods for measuring PFAS and filling data gaps; and
- expand proactive communications efforts regarding PFAS and their health effects.

The effort is to involve the agency's research, water and chemicals offices, as well as its regional offices.

Non regulatory action

The controversial chemicals are surfactants that have been used in a variety of consumer products, such as carpets, textiles, non-stick cookware and food packaging.

The EPA has published drinking water health advisories for PFOA and PFOS, but has not formally regulated them.

Instead, the agency took the approach of working with industry to phase out their use under a stewardship programme that should have been completed by 2015. It proposed a significant new use rule (Snur) to codify the voluntary phase out and apply it to manufacturers who were not party to that agreement, but the Snur has not been finalised.

In a new 'fact sheet', the EPA characterised the non-regulatory advisory as providing drinking water system operators and state, tribal and local officials "who have the primary responsibility for overseeing these systems" with information that allows them to "take the appropriate actions to protect people".

In November, California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (Oehha) listed PFOA and PFOS as developmental toxicants under Proposition 65, requiring warnings if the public or workers are exposed to the substance. The action was based on the EPA's findings, and industry groups protested against taking that action in the absence of formal federal regulation.

The EPA's fact sheet says the agency "has collected data on six PFAS substances in public drinking water systems and is evaluating this information to determine the next steps to protect public health".

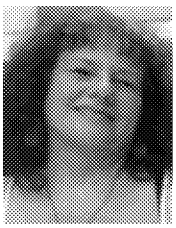
It says the agency "is ramping up its work to gather and evaluate additional scientific information about chemicals, like GenX, to identify risks and determine if it is necessary to set drinking water health advisory levels or take other actions".

GenX in North Carolina

The fact sheet also contains a section specifically addressing the controversy over GenX in North Carolina.

The document notes that the EPA approved the commercialisation of GenX under a consent order that set conditions on its manufacture. It said the agency "has initiated an investigation" into chemicals business the Chemours Company's "compliance with a 2009 order" to determine if the company has met requirements to "control releases" at its Teflon production facility in Fayetteville, NC.

It said the EPA is using data from Chemours "to update its risk assessment" of GenX, and is performing "independent laboratory analysis" for the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, which is weighing sanctions against Chemours.



Julie A Miller

North American Desk Editor

Related Articles

- Opposition by Republican senators casts doubt on Dourson nomination
- US EPA publishes progress reports on PFOA stewardship programme
- US EPA proposes Snur for perfluoroalkyl carboxylates
- California lists PFOA and PFOS as reproductive toxicants under Prop 65

Further Information:

- EPA press release
- EPA fact sheet

Downstream users urged to act on EU antimony evaluation

Warnings over consequences of changed classification

7 December 2017 / Classification, labelling and packaging Regulation, Europe, GHS, Metals

Downstream users of antimony and its compounds have been urged to start preparing the information needed for an EU substance evaluation in March 2018. Lack of data could have serious consequences, speakers at a recent Brussels conference said.

Participants in the 2017 Antimony Day event on 29 November heard that the evaluation – to be carried out by Germany's Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (Baua) – could result in the reclassification of three forms of antimony: antimony trioxide; antimony sulphide; and antimony metal.

Antimony substances are used extensively in flame retardants, and also in lead batteries, plastics, paints, glass and other ceramics.

Under the CLP Regulation antimony trioxide is currently listed as carcinogenic 2 – "suspected of causing cancer". The other two substances have no classification.

But delegates at the event, organised by the International Antimony Association (i2a), heard that reclassification to a carcinogen 1B category – "may cause cancer" – was a real possibility.

Speaking after the event Caroline Braibant, i2a's secretary general (pictured), said: "We are very worried about the impact, but we are trying to provide the most robust interpretation of toxicological evidence, and manage the possible downstream consequences of a possible reclassification."

Fears

Delegates to the conference included miners, producers, traders and users of various forms of antimony, and many expressed fears that a reclassification could drive up costs and force many SMEs out of the industry.

"The problem is the links that CLP has with many other pieces of legislation like REACH and the RoHS and toys Directives," Ms Braibant said. "Once a substance is in carcinogenicity categories 1A or 1B, its use may be restricted in a number of articles, no matter the physical form in which it is used or the actual exposure potential."

In an attempt to limit damage, i2a is promoting the idea that any change of classification could also specify a route of exposure.

'Instead of having a reclassification via all exposure routes under CLP, if the authorities would agree on an inhalation effect only, then this would allow the continued use of antimony substances in any way when they are not generating dust,' Caroline Braibant, i2a

"Instead of having a reclassification via all exposure routes under CLP, if the authorities would agree on an inhalation effect only, this would allow continued use of antimony substances in any way when they are not generating dust," said Ms Braibant.

"One point where authorities and our industry could agree is that the issue is only one of inhalation," she said. "Any restrictions imposed downstream would only be applicable where there is a potential release or exposure to powders and dusts."

Raising awareness

Many downstream users are convinced, Ms Braibant said, that antimony substances are "nice to work with" and have never experienced adverse health impacts from it. Therefore they question why anything should change, she added. There is a "general lack of experience" of the CLP reclassification process in the sector and a belief that current risk management measures "are protective enough".

Further awareness raising is necessary to make industry realise a reclassification decision is subject to "rigid rules and will have a number of consequences".

Antimony compound stakeholders need to engage with the process, she said. "The best advice we can give industry is to generate or provide the exposure data they have. It may not change the reclassification, but it may ensure subsequent measures are not decided on a worst-case basis"

Evaluation work

Baua's decision to conduct the evaluation follows a US National Toxicology Program (NTP) study into the carcinogenicity of antimony compounds. This found evidence of lung tumours in exposed rats and carcinogenic effects on mice.

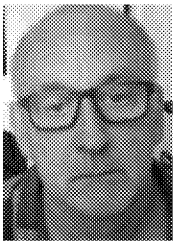
Baua's Mandy Lokaj told the conference the substances had been chosen on the grounds of:

- carcinogenicity;
- possible exposure of workers;
- high (aggregated) tonnage;
- high risk characterisation ratios;
- other exposure/risk based concerns; and
- wide dispersive use.

Antimony compounds have also been the subject of a 2017 EU pilot covering more than the three substances subject to evaluation.

Trialled for the first time this year, the so-called Colla approach has seen Echa, member state competent authorities and registrants working together on selected groups of substances. The antimony sector volunteered for the pilot to help prepare for the 2018 evaluation.

Nevertheless, despite close cooperation between the various sides, Dr Lokaj warned that industry needs to get its data in place, otherwise Baua would have to make worst case assumptions on the potential risk associated with antimony substances.



Nick Hazlewood

News editor

Related Articles

- Antimony compounds: US tox programme publishes assessment protocol

Further Information:

- NTP antimony compounds protocol
- Baua justification document

China sets new assessment guidelines for environmental exposure

Details on how to prepare an exposure assessment report

7 December 2017 / China, Exposure modelling, Exposure scenarios

China's Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) has published a standard on government assessments of the exposure of non-occupational groups to environmental pollutants produced by enterprises and other institutions. It takes effect immediately.

This technical guideline applies to chemical pollutants where exposure is via the air, drinking water, groundwater and soil.

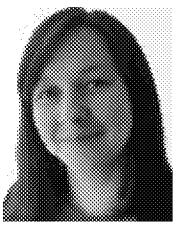
In essence, the standard outlines how to produce an exposure assessment report. It sets out the necessity of defining its purpose and scope, and the data sources and methods to be used. It also covers results, quality control methods required and the need to apply an "uncertainty analysis".

The standard says that any conclusion should clarify the pollutant concentration, route and degree of exposure and population group exposed (whether it is the general population or sensitive groups).

It also sets out model parameters for calculating daily exposure levels for each method, that is: via skin, digestion, respiration and water use.

The standard – Technical guideline for population exposure assessment of environmental pollutants – became effective on 24 November.

More available on *CW+AsiaHub*



Ellen Tatham

Asia reporter

Related Articles

- China sets new assessment guidelines for environmental exposure

Further Information:

- Standard (in Chinese)

Echa, Efsa consult on draft EDC criteria guidance

7 December 2017 / EDCs, Europe

Echa and the European Food Safety Authority (Efsa) are seeking public views on the draft guidance document for the identification of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) under EU legislation for pesticides and biocides.

It was developed by the two agencies and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC). Earlier this year, Efsa and Echa conducted two targeted consultations on the draft with experts representing member state competent authorities and stakeholders from industry and NGOs.

Over 1,800 comments were received during the second consultation.

A document presented at the latest meeting of the Competent Authorities for REACH and CLP (Caracal) on 15–16 November said the draft guidance would be published in early December to coincide with the third, and the first public, consultation.

At the meeting, the team with responsibility for the guidance – the ad–hoc Echa-Efsa ED consultation group – said the guidance must be available when the criteria come into effect, "which will presumably be in late spring 2018".

The deadline for comments to the consultation is 31 January. Both agencies will consider them when finalising the guidance, which is scheduled to be available by June 2018.

In October, the European Parliament vetoed the Commission's proposal for EDC criteria in plant protection products, asking it to come up with a new proposal "without delay".

A month later, the Commission published its delegated Regulation setting out the criteria for identifying EDCs under the biocidal products Regulation (BPR) in the EU *Official Journal*. The criteria will apply from 7 June 2018.

Unlike the proposal for EDC criteria for plant protection products, the European Parliament and Council did not block the BPR proposal from entry into force.

More available on *CRM* and *CW+Biocides Hub*

Related Articles

- Echa/Efsa EDC guidance proposes two starting points
- Draft guidance on EDC criteria out 'in early December'
- European Parliament rejects EDC criteria
- Biocides EDC criteria to apply from June
- Echa and Efsa publish draft ED guidance for public consultation
- Echa and Efsa publish draft ED guidance for public consultation

Further Information:

- Press release
- Caracal document

Companies urged to voluntarily report violations of South Korea's chemical acts

Window opens for penalty exemption

7 December 2017 / South Korea

South Korea's environment and justice ministries have advised companies seeking penalty exemptions for failing to comply with notification requirements and other rules under the Chemicals Control Act (CCA) and the earlier Toxic Chemicals Control Act (TCCA) to voluntarily report themselves.

According to the 21 November announcement, the reporting period closes on 21 May 2018.

Companies are encouraged to come forward if they have failed to submit a:

- confirmation letter for chemical substances;
- declaration of toxic chemical substances imported; or
- declaration of manufacturing/import of observational substances.

This also applies if companies failed to obtain:

- permission for importing restricted substances;
- permission for manufacturing/import/sales of prohibited substances; or
- a business licence for handling hazardous chemical substances (they must take necessary procedures for obtaining the licence within 18 months of the November 21 announcement).

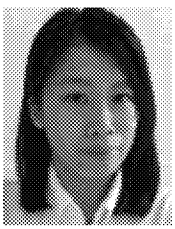
Failing to do so will result in a penalty of up to five years in prison or a fine of 100m Korean won, or five years in prison or a find of 50m Korean won under the TCCA and CCA, respectively.

Businesses will be exempt from these penalties if they report during the voluntary reporting window. Cases that are currently under investigation or prosecution will be considered for lesser penalties.

However, penalty exemptions do not apply to a situation where an accident was caused as a result of the breach of the legislation.

Violations found after the voluntary reporting window has closed will be strictly subject to the penalties, the ministries said.

More available on *CW+AsiaHub*



Aya Kawanishi

Reporter

Related Articles

- Companies urged to voluntarily report violations of South Korea's chemical acts

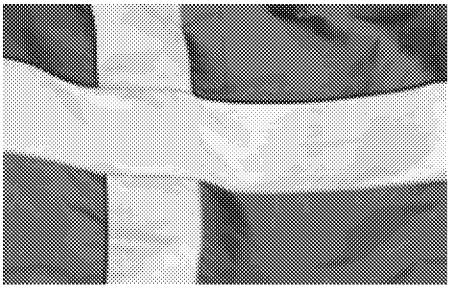
Further Information:

- MoE announcement (in Korean)

Nano data will be added to Swedish product register next year

Companies have until February 2019 to comply

7 December 2017 / Data, Nanomaterials, Sweden



A new rule requiring companies in Sweden to notify data on nanomaterials in chemical products to the country's chemicals agency's product register will enter into force on 1 January 2018. They will have until 28 February 2019 to comply.

The obligation, which applies to the manufacture and import of products, will enable Kemi to obtain information about the type and quantity of nanomaterials used in the country. The data may form the basis for future regulatory developments in health, the environment and the workplace, the agency says.

There will be exemptions in place for:

- nanomaterials that are naturally occurring or accidentally produced;
- companies with annual sales of less than SEK5m (€502,000); and
- pigment nanomaterials.

These will last three years while an evaluation is carried out. They will mean companies only need supply information on whether a component of a product is a nanomaterial.

Member state action

Sweden joins Belgium, Denmark, France and Norway, which already require companies to report information on nanomaterials to their national inventories. They have taken action because the European Commission has ruled out an EU register and instead opted for an EU observatory for nanomaterials (EUON) public website.

The Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) recently said it expects the EUON's contribution to reducing the uncertainty surrounding the safety of nanomaterials "to be limited".

Earlier this year, the Nanotechnology Industries Association (NIA) asked Kemi to withdraw plans for its regulation. It argued that the information requirements and "administrative burden" of the proposal are not "proportional" to the objective, to provide an overview of nanomaterials in products on the national market. Instead, the NIA said in March, Sweden should focus its resources in supporting Echa's nano observatory.

Meanwhile, in September the association rejected a proposal for a new EU regulatory framework for nanomaterials by a leading Danish academic as being "unclear" and "limited".

Amended regulations

The requirement coincides with the entry into force of Sweden's amended basic regulation on chemical products and biotechnological organisms.

The purpose of the update is to "increase clarity both systematically and linguistically", the agency says. It has a new section of chapters and attachments. There are references at the beginning of each chapter, which explain how the provisions relate to other rules, such as EU laws, as well as Swedish ones.

Kemi says existing provisions on chemical properties of toys have been taken out and "may form their own regulations". Those for reporting on mercury, as well as on exceptions to heavy metal limit values in packaging materials have also been repealed.

Related Articles

- Sweden's Kemi drafts nanomaterials regulation
- Echa launches EU nanomaterials observatory
- Impact of EU nano observatory 'limited', RIVM says
- Withdraw nano register proposal, NIA tells Sweden's Kemi
- NIA rejects Danish academic's nano regulation proposal

Further Information:

- Press release (in Swedish)
- Products register

OTHER ARTICLES

Don't roll back progress on **toxic chemicals**: Barry A. Cik (Opinion)

cleveland.com

I got into the mattress business in the first place when I was unable to find a product without **toxic chemicals** for my grandchild to sleep on. If that sounds alarmist, you should know that many products in use today still contain chemicals, like flame retardants, that scientists have tied to thyroid disruption, ...

EDF comments at EPA's public meeting on new **chemical** reviews question the credibility and ...

Environmental Defense Fund (blog)

EPA held a public meeting today to present information on major changes it is making to its review of new chemicals under last year's reforms made to the **Toxic Substances** Control Act (TSCA) by the Lautenberg Act. EPA provided brief opportunities for stakeholders to provide comments. Two of us from ...

Screening **chemicals** in everyday products for safety -- without animals

EurekAlert (press release)

Thousands of substances in toys, electronics and other products have not yet been assessed for their potential risks to consumers. Last year's update to the **Toxic Substances** Control Act (TSCA) could make this task more manageable by setting a new path for prioritizing and evaluating these risks.

Shoppers, Parents and Health Experts Visit 80+ Dollar Tree and Family Dollar Locations Asking for ...

PR Newswire (press release)

"This busy holiday shopping season, we're visiting Dollar Tree and Family Dollar stores from coast-to-coast across the nation to say shoppers want safe and healthy products—not products laden with **toxic chemicals**," said Jose Bravo, Coordinator of the Campaign for Healthier Solutions. He continued ...